



FINAL Annual Report FY 2002

Latin America and Caribbean Regional HIV/AIDS Initiative (LACRI)

Submitted by:

The Synergy Project
TvT Associates, a Division of Social and Scientific Systems, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Submitted to:

Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean
United States Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C.

31 October, 2002

Latin America and Caribbean Regional HIV/AIDS Initiative (LACRI)
Annual Report
FY2002

I. Background

This Annual Report summarizes the activities conducted between October 1, 2001 and September 30, 2002 (FY02) for the Latin America and Caribbean Regional HIV/ AIDS Initiative (LACRI), as implemented by the Synergy Project of the TvT Division, Social and Scientific Systems for USAID/LAC/RSD-PHN. This initiative responds to Strategic Objective (SO) 3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions of LAC/RSD-PHN. Accordingly, LACRI has the following SO-level statement: To increase awareness among policy makers and program managers of best practices, research results and experiences in the region. The Intermediate Results (IR) for the Initiative are the following:

- IR1: Existing Information is disseminated through a website and information clearinghouse.
- IR2: Regional exchanges between HIV/ AIDS policy makers and program managers are facilitated.
- IR3: Regional technical assistance in HIV/ AIDS (south-to-south and north-south) is enabled.
- IR4: Regional guidelines and tools are available for validation.

The Synergy Project is a five-year, performance-based contract that provides technical assistance to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the design, evaluation, and coordination of HIV/ AIDS programs, and in the identification and dissemination of lessons learned from these programs. In addition to providing the LAC Bureau with technical assistance to respond to their SO 3, Synergy assists the Bureau for Global Health (BGH) to implement its SO 4 for HIV/ AIDS. These activities were conducted under funds obligated to The Synergy Project in FY00 and FY01.

The twelve USAID target countries for LACRI are the following: Bolivia, Brazil, , Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. Additionally, there are two regional HIV/ AIDS programs in LAC: Caribbean Regional Program and the Central American Regional Program.

II. *Performance Analysis at the Strategic Objective Level for FY02*

SO-level Statement: Increased awareness among policy-makers and program managers of best practices, research results, and experiences in the Region.

Indicators:

1. Number of organizations that obtain information from LAC best practices clearinghouse.
2. Number of AIDS-related organizations obtaining resources from LAC best practices clearinghouse.
3. Number of countries that obtain resources from the LAC best practices clearinghouse.
4. Percent of target groups in USAID assistance countries to which information and tools are distributed.

Throughout the course of FY02, LACRI contributed various tools and opportunities aimed at increasing awareness among policy and program managers involved in the regional response to HIV/AIDS in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Examples of these contributions included the following:

- LACRI finalized and disseminated country and regional summaries of HIV/AIDS for 17 countries and regional programs. These summaries, available in printed and electronic format in both Spanish and English, provide up to date, synthesized information on the current epidemiological situation, the national/regional response, USAID support and information on its partners, principal challenges facing the country/region, and sources of additional information. Country summaries are available for the following USAID target countries: Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Caribbean Region.
- As part of the XIV International AIDS Conference (Barcelona, July 2002) LACRI organized a major satellite session on lessons learned in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The session included presentations by HIV/AIDS leaders from the public and non-governmental sector in the region and covered topics such as the latest epidemiological research, condom social marketing, resource mobilization, and participatory evaluation techniques. The event was attended and reviewed favorably by over 200 participants – many of them program managers and policy makers in the their respective countries – and presenters identified through a rigorous competitive selection process that included USAID missions' recommendations for presenters and scholarship recipients. Seven of the twelve USAID target countries were represented at the satellite session in

Barcelona (Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala and Dominican Republic).

- LACRI's ongoing support and contributions to technical discussions on topics such as South-to South cooperation and care and support are of particular relevance, as policy and program managers' expertise in these and related areas is strengthened as a result of their direct participation in exchanges, technical fora, and other opportunities that LACRI supports. Examples include the CONCASIDA process in Central America and similar events in other sub-regions).
- As the complexity of HIV/ AIDS issues grows in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and more partners become involved in the national and regional responses, awareness among policy and program managers becomes increasingly important. LACRI seeks to ensure that information on key HIV/ AIDS issues is available in a range of formats (technical to popular), through passive dissemination channels (website), as well as through timely consultations with key stakeholders.

III. Performance Analysis at the Intermediate Result Level for FY02

Intermediate Result 1: Existing Information is Disseminated
--

Indicators:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number of organizations in target countries to which information and tools are distributed. |
|--|

1. Care and Support Strategy Development

In FY02, a draft version of the concept paper on HIV/AIDS care and support issues specific to Central America was developed by a Synergy consultant, Dr. David Wheeler, for the CONCASIDA II conference held in Guatemala. The paper was also submitted to USAID/G-CAP for the Regional HIV/AIDS Transition Planning Meeting. This document has provided strategic insights into the needs of the region to ensure that LACRI best practices in the area of care and support are made available and disseminated. The concept paper recognized the salience of ARVs in the regional dialogue on care and support, and USAID's need to leverage a larger impact with relatively modest available USAID funds. It recommends that USAID support training of a range of comprehensive care and service providers (from physicians to community-based NGOs) to be able to provide the range of services required in a comprehensive approach to care and support.

LACRI will refine and finalize this document on HIV/AIDS care and support during FY03 and incorporate into it lessons learned and input from the findings of the Central American Care and Support strategy commissioned from Synergy/TvT by G-CAP (October-November 2002). Once completed, the final version of this document will be translated into Spanish (using funding from the Best Practices Tools Development and Adaptation activity) and included in the LACRI website as a valuable resource on care and support in the subregion. In addition, LACRI staff will participate in regional dialogues on care and support and will ensure that LACRI's best practices adequately feature and make available the content and scope of care and support issues.

2. LAC Country and Regional Summaries

The LAC Country and Regional Summaries consist of general information on the specific country's HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation status of HIV/AIDS, its national response, USAID support and programming, other US and non-US support, challenges and select contact information. The purpose of the country summaries is to improve knowledge and awareness of policy makers, program managers, donors and the general public interested in HIV/AIDS in the LAC region. Preparation and dissemination of these country summaries support IR 1 – Existing Information is Disseminated – by disseminating and making available key information on the HIV/AIDS situation and response in an accessible format. During FY02, Country/Regional Summaries were prepared for the following seventeen countries/Regions, as well as were prepared in the specific country's language, where applicable:

- Belize (English and Spanish)
- Bolivia (English and Spanish)
- Brazil (English and Portuguese)
- Caribbean Region (English)
- Costa Rica (English and Spanish)
- Dominican Republic (English and Spanish)
- Ecuador (English and Spanish)
- El Salvador (English and Spanish)
- Guatemala (English and Spanish)
- Guyana (English)
- Haiti (English and French)
- Honduras (English and Spanish)
- Jamaica (English)
- Mexico (English and Spanish)
- Nicaragua (English and Spanish)
- Panama (English and Spanish)
- Peru (English and Spanish)

No significant activities are being planned for FY03, with the exception that LACRI will continue to monitor and identify the needs for updating and/or revising selected summaries. As several countries and regional projects have and will be undergoing significant strategy review and development exercises in FY03, there may be a need in some cases for LACRI to provide technical input and clearance for the proposed revisions in the summaries, although funding for updating the summaries will no longer come from LACRI or the LAC Bureau.

3. Best practices collection and dissemination (the LACRI Website)

Expanding access to relevant information (General HIV / AIDS information, best practices, lessons learned as well as tools and methodologies) and improving its dissemination among policy makers and program managers is a key priority shared by many partners working in the Latin America and Caribbean region. As venue to collect and disseminate best practices and lessons learned in the LAC region, the LACRI Website is being developed by Synergy and will be running in FY03. The initial concept of the web site was outlined in the Synergy Proposal for the LACRI and was a central and initiating activity of the work to be performed under the LACRI contract. LACRI efforts to collect and disseminate best practices and lessons learned will address IR 1 - Existing Information is Disseminated - by providing accessible information and materials relevant to the region.

The following are the proposed phases of this activity:

- Phase One: Plan Development
- Phase Two: Design
- Phase Three: Implementation
- Phase Four: Testing, Refinement and Monitoring

For FY02, activities revolved around planning and developing the structure of the website (Phase 1), and assessing the situation and available resources. LACRI staff began consultations with key information technology specialists at SSS (TvT's corporate headquarters), regional experts and partners (e.g. SIDALAC, PASCA, PAHO, Communication Initiative, etc), as well as identifying potential materials to be included in the Website.

The majority of tasks within this activity will be implemented during FY03 (Phases 2 through 4), including the launching of the Website on December 1, 2002, which will allow for a systematic and consolidated means of disseminating best practices and lessons learned that are appropriate for the different realities of the region. Additionally, this will permit a shared approach in the dissemination of pertinent information (i.e. international institutions and academic institutions, etc) but at the same time provide an accessible and innovative forum that will address gaps identified in current HIV/AIDS Websites, as they relate to the LAC context.

Intermediate Result 2: Regional Exchange between Policy Makers and Managers

Indicators:

1. Number of regional exchanges (including conferences, seminars) between policy makers and program managers.
2. Percent of target countries participating in at least one exchange annually.

4. Barcelona Satellite Session

As mentioned earlier, LACRI organized a major satellite session on lessons learned in the Latin American and Caribbean region as part of the XIV International AIDS Conference (Barcelona, July 2002). The session included presentations by HIV/AIDS leaders from the public and non-governmental sector in the region and covered topics such as the latest epidemiological research, condom social marketing, resource mobilization, and participatory evaluation techniques. The event was attended and reviewed favorably by over 200 participants – many of them program managers and policy makers in the their respective countries -- and presenters identified through a participatory selection process that included USAID missions' recommendations for presenters and scholarship recipients.

As part of follow-up to this activity in FY03, selected presenters from the satellite seminar will be included in the LACRI TAG and other regional technical consultations.

5. Support and Participation in CONCASIDA II and III

As the premier HIV/AIDS conference in Central America, CONCASIDA activities provide a forum for information, knowledge and best practices sharing for the Central American region. LACRI's networking function will facilitate policy and program managers access to these info sources.

During FY02, LACRI supported the Second Central American Congress on STI/HIV/AIDS (CONCASIDA II), which was held in November 2001 in Guatemala, by 1) providing technical assistance with the transfer and installation of the CONCASIDA II databases of participants and abstracts, 2) providing tools for Webpage updating and maintenance, and 3) by participating in the conference.

CONCASIDA III will provide an important forum to provide and document technical exchanges among LACRI policymakers and managers, as well as to share the products of LACRI accomplished in FY03. In FY03, LACRI will support CONCASIDA III by ensuring the orderly transfer of conference information from the CONCASIDA II organizing group to the CONCASIDA III group.

Therefore, LACRI representation in the conference is budgeted and programmed.

6. Technical Advisory Group

As the TAG was not convened in FY02, there are no activities to report on for this funding period. However, the objectives and stakeholder mapping for the TAG were defined in this period.

LACRI's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be convened once in FY03 to draw on and share their organizational and technical knowledge and lessons learned to review and make recommendations on specific technical priorities and issues, identify resources, and improve coordination with other major partners working in the region.

Intermediate Result 3: Regional and Technical Assistance to HIV/AIDS is Enabled (North-to-South/South-to-South)
--

Indicators:

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number of countries providing South-to-South technical assistance.2. Number of countries receiving South-to-South technical assistance. |
|---|

7. Support to ASICAL

The Synergy Project will support The Policy Project in strengthening the AIDS policy dialogue of La Asociacion para la Salud Integral y Ciudadania en America Latina (ASICAL), a compendium of six gay/lesbian organizations in the LAC region. Also to be addressed is NGO capacity-building and advocacy training. In order to achieve this, the Policy Project will conduct an advocacy and capacity-building workshop for ASICAL member NGOs, to which LACRI will contribute Synergy Project tools and expertise, as appropriate.

Based on conversations with the POLICY Project and ASICAL in Fy02, LACRI identified a mechanism that would further its collaboration to the workshop follow-on activities that will consist of managing a bid and proposal process for subcontracting NGOs to replicate the advocacy training in the awardees' respective countries.

Most of the activities related to support to ASICAL will be conducted in FY03.

8. South-to-South Technical Cooperation

South-to-South technical cooperation and networking are important features of HIV/AIDS work in the Latin American and Caribbean region. With input from USAID missions and centrally-funded projects as well as other partners, LACRI plans to support and document networking and South-to-South technical exchanges in key areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

Activities related to South-to-South technical assistance are planned for FY03.

Intermediate Result 4: Regional Guidelines and Tools Available for Validation
--

Indicator:

1. Number of country profiles for target countries available for designated USAID countries.

9. Best Practices Tools Development and Adaptation

Though the sheer quantity of information related to HIV/AIDS is undeniably massive, analysis of existing capacities in many Latin American countries points to the need to strengthen certain key functions with additional tools, case studies and learning opportunities. In some cases, language issues or resource constraints have prevented valuable tools that have been developed in other regions from being field tested or validated in the Latin American or Caribbean regions. LACRI intends to bridge at least part of this gap with the selection and regional adaptation of one or more tools that will be of strategic use to program managers in the region.

Activities related to best practices and tool development are planned for FY03.

Next Steps

In the coming fiscal year (FY03), activities for LACRI are planned to address the four IRs by including activities aimed at strengthening resources and expertise of in the region and using a mutually supporting set of communication approaches and channels – Web, Internet, print media, telephone and face-to-face consultations, workshops and conferences – to build and share needed knowledge and tools among policy and program managers in the region. In implementing activities, it would be very useful and advantageous for LACRI to take into account the following issues, so as to ensure successful completion of the FY03 Workplan:

- Duplication with other information dissemination efforts needs to be avoided. LACRI website development will be a collaborative effort with other partners in the region that invest in similar tools aimed at similar audiences. Gathering of relevant best practice and lessons learned (BP/LL) materials will also be gathered, reviewed and selected in a collaborative way so as to maximize LACRI resources.
- Global Fund processes underway in many countries of the region illustrate the need for more capacity building support and tools around the mechanics of program design, monitoring and evaluation. Tools produced by Synergy (such as the APDIME toolkit) and CAs could help fill this gap in a strategic, low cost, high impact way, both will be explored in FY03.
- South-to-south technical cooperation is advancing in the region, and at the national program managers' level is becoming the preferred way of doing business in the region. Opportunities identified by LACRI that are appropriate to the Initiative's mandate are related to technical exchange among programs focused on sex workers, participatory evaluation and program management. All three will be the focus of South-to-South technical exchange activities in FY03.
- The dissemination of LL/BP materials can depend to large extent on web-based information, but the successful adaptation and adoption of certain tools will need to include orientation based on more "face-time" with potential users rather than only straight translation and dissemination.
- Internal issues such as LACRI staff turnover in FY02 has been addressed by contracting two higher-level, Spanish-speaking professionals (one Washington based, staff, one 2/3 - time technical consultant) with significant experience in the region, familiarity with partners and ongoing processes.

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: SO Level statement: Increase policy and program managers' awareness of best practices, research results, and experiences in the region.			
INDICATOR 1: Number of organizations that obtain information from LAC best practices clearinghouse			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Number SOURCE: INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of organizations downloading information from the LAC region through the LAC Regional Initiative Website. COMMENTS: For the Clearinghouse of Best practices the website needs to have a "tell me about yourself" form to obtain information about the individual downloading resources (i.e. country, govt. or NGO, type NGO) to capture accurate information for the indicators.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	30	0
	2003	60	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: SO Level statement: Increase policy and program managers' awareness of best practices, research results, and experiences in the region.			
INDICATOR 2: Number of AIDS-related organizations obtaining resources from LAC best practices clearinghouse			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Number SOURCE: Reports from website INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of AIDS-related organizations downloading information from the LAC regional from the LAC Regional Initiative Website. COMMENTS: For the Clearinghouse of Best practices the website needs to have a "tell me about yourself" form to obtain information about the individual downloading resources (i.e. country, govt. or NGO, type NGO) to capture accurate information for the indicators. Synergy needs to monitor the progress and usefulness of the clearinghouse. Therefore along with who and where the downloads are taking place, Synergy will monitor the growth of the	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	20	0
	2003	40	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: SO Level statement: Increase policy and program managers' awareness of best practices, research results, and experiences in the region.			
INDICATOR 3: Number of target countries that obtain resources from LAC best practices clearinghouse			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Number SOURCE: Computer generated INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of countries from the LAC region that have downloaded information from the LAC Regional Initiative Website. COMMENTS: For the Clearinghouse of Best practices the website needs to have a "tell me about yourself" form to obtain information about the individual downloading resources (i.e. country, govt. or NGO, type NGO) to capture accurate information for the indicators.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	6	0
	2003	12	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: SO Level statement: Increase policy and program managers' awareness of best practices, research results, and experiences in the region.			
INDICATOR 4: Number of target groups in USAID assistance countries to which information and tools are distributed.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Proportion SOURCE: Website/ Conference/ List serv. Attendance forms. INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of countries represented for the various "LAC Best Practices" listserv participants. Total number of countries receiving information through the website. Number of target countries represented among the attendees at the Initiative sponsored Barcelona satellite session. COMMENTS: For the Clearinghouse of Best practices the website needs to have a "tell me about yourself" form to obtain information about the individual downloading resources (i.e. country, govt. or NGO, type NGO) to capture accurate information for the indicators.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	12	12
	2003	12	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.1: Existing information is disseminated.			
INDICATOR 7.1.1: Number of organizations in target countries to which information and tools are distributed.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Number SOURCE: Website/Conferences INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: COMMENTS: For the Clearinghouse of Best practices the website needs to have a "tell me about yourself" form to obtain information about the individual downloading resources (i.e. country, govt. or NGO, type NGO) to capture accurate information for the indicators. Info included will be: # of participants at CONCASIDA conferences that received Initiative supported documents. Number of USAID-supported documents distributed at CONCASIDA. Number of participants of LAC Regional Initiative Regional Initiative website and appropriate listserve. Number of attendees at the Initiative sponsored Barcelona satellite session.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	12	7
	2003	24	

NB: Methods for measuring the number of participants and organizations reached are currently being developed. These will be finalized at the end of the 1st Quarter.

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.2 Regional exchanges between HIV/AIDS policy makers and program managers are facilitated.			
INDICATOR 7.2.1: Number of regional exchanges (including conferences, seminars) between policy makers and program managers.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Number SOURCE: Conferences :CONCASIDA II, CONCASIDA III, and Barcelona and Workshop support. INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of regional information exchange events supported by the initiative. COMMENTS: Need to define a minimum of countries.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	2	2
	2003	3	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.2 Regional exchanges between HIV/AIDS policy makers and program managers are facilitated.			
INDICATOR 7.2.2: Percent of targeted countries participating in at least one exchange annually.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: Proportion SOURCE: Conferences :CONCASIDA II, CONCASIDA III, and Barcelona and Workshop support. INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of countries represented among attendees at the Initiative sponsored Barcelona Satellite session. COMMENTS: Need to define number of countries with a minimum of participants.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	80%	100%
	2003	80%	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.3 Regional technical assistance in HIV/AIDS is provided.			
INDICATOR 7.3.1: Number of countries providing south-to-south technical assistance.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: SOURCE: In any crossborder TA a complete list of attendees and the country of origin will be mandated as a deliverable of the activity. INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of countries providing TA through crossborder activities supported by the initiative. COMMENTS:	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	0	0
	2003	3	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.3 Regional technical assistance in HIV/AIDS is provided.			
INDICATOR 7.3.2: Number of countries receiving south-to-south technical assistance.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: SOURCE: In any crossborder TA a complete list of attendees and the country of origin will be mandated as a deliverable of the activity. INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of countries receiving TA through crossborder activities supported by the Initiative. COMMENTS:	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	0	0
	2003	3	

OBJECTIVE: Strategic Objective #3: More effective delivery of selected health services and policy interventions. APPROVED: 2001 HIV/AIDS COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: LAC/RSD-PHN			
RESULT NAME: IR 7.4 Regional guidelines and tools are available for validation.			
INDICATOR 7.4.1: Number of country profiles for target countries available for designated USAID countries.			
UNIT OF MEASURE: SOURCE: Country profiles INDICATOR DESCRIPTION: Number of country profiles available in English for designated USAID countries. Number of country profiles available in host country language for the designated USAID countries. COMMENTS: Fifteen summaries were prepared, twelve of which were for target countries, and two were for regional programs.	YEAR	PLANNED	ACTUAL
	2001	0	0
	2002	15	17
	2003	5	